

CLASicos

Summer 2012. 72

Center for Latin American Studies

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University Center for International Studies  
University of Pittsburgh



Pitt students Michaelangelo Tabone (far left) and Curtis Larimer (far right) with Brazilian host students from UNICAMP—Miguel, Murilo, and Lider.

The students lived and worked together for four weeks as part of the IRES program.

Many of the activities and programs involving Brazil at the University of Pittsburgh are situated in the Swanson School of Engineering. In academic year 2011-12, over 25 Pitt students traveled to Brazil for research, coursework, and study through programs coordinated by the School of Engineering. The Brazil-related programs, to a considerable degree, had their origins in the efforts of the Mascaro Center for Sustainable Innovation (MCSI). One of the main goals of MCSI is to teach engineering students to work in cross-cultural environments and to function effectively on multinational teams, and Brazil has been the focus for these efforts.

MCSI was founded in 2003 as a center of excellence that focuses on research, education, and outreach initiatives aimed at innovations for a more sustainable community

infrastructure. MCSI's research expertise includes the greening of the built environment, transportation infrastructure, and materials. The Mascaro Center has supported a total of 60 graduate and post-doctoral students over the past eight years as well as over 120 undergraduate summer researchers. The Center has also developed six new courses for undergraduate and graduate students that cross disciplinary barriers. Recently, MCSI began offering the Engineering for Humanity certificate, which is open to all undergraduate students and both guides and formalizes student participation in engineering projects in which social and/or environmental sustainability is a core thrust. Moreover, the certificate program addresses the significance of cultural, political, and business forces in rapid and effective penetration of new technologies. This certificate will allow students to earn credit for service learning projects. Students have the option of pursuing either a U.S. or international track. One of the unique attributes of the Center is the international opportunities offered. Today's practicing engineers need to understand how to function effectively on multinational teams and, therefore, MCSI has developed both undergraduate and graduate level international experiences with several Brazilian Universities—including the University of Campinas (UNICAMP), the Federal University of Espirito Santo (UFES) in Vitoria, and Pontificia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro (PUC-Rio).

A major boost to MCSI's Brazilian initiatives came in 2005 when the National Science Foundation awarded the Center a \$3.2 million Integrative Graduate Education and Research Training (IGERT) award to support the establishment of a multidisciplinary, multi-institutional graduate training program of education and research in sustainable engineering. The program provides doctoral students in engineering a curriculum for those interested in sustainability that emphasizes team-based design and crosses departmental lines. Sustainability is a global issue, and hence the project partners with the University of Pittsburgh's nationally acclaimed Center for Latin American Studies (CLAS) and several Brazilian universities to provide six-month international research rotations for all IGERT graduate students, giving them hands-on experience living and working cross-culturally. In order for IGERT fellows to more effectively study, do research, and live in Brazil for an extended period, they take three semesters of Brazilian Portuguese and a one-semester IGERT seminar (coordinated by CLAS) that introduces fellows to the geography, history, economy, politics, society, and culture of Brazil. The program sent four students to Brazil in 2011-12 and has supported a total of 16 IGERT fellows since its inception.

To complement its graduate program with an undergraduate component, MCSI received another grant from the National Science Foundation in 2007—under the International Research Experience for Students (IRES) program. The purpose of the MCSI IRES program was to create an innovative research experience in sustainable design for a select group of undergraduate engineering students who have high potential to pursue graduate education.

**On the cover:** Summer 2012 "Engineering for a Better Environment: Brazil" course participants at the Itaipu Binational Hydroelectric Dam on the Paraná River between Brazil and Paraguay. Left to right: Vanessa Edwards (Industrial Engineering), Joe Shoemaker (Environmental Studies), Jake Coloney (Industrial Engineering), Caleb Angel (Civil and Environmental Engineering), Oren Lawit (Chemical and Petroleum Engineering), Berkeley Chatot (Civil and Environmental Engineering), Eric Foster (Civil and Environmental Engineering), Jessica MacDonald (Environmental Studies), Amber Cesario (Chemical and Petroleum Engineering), Benjamin Berk (Industrial Engineering), Annie Jones (Industrial Engineering), and Kent Harries (Associate Professor, Civil and Environmental Engineering; course instructor).



Students participate in a 12-week summer internship and are co-led by faculty from the University of Pittsburgh and a faculty partner in Brazil. Students spend four preparatory weeks in Pittsburgh, travel to Brazil for four weeks, and then return to Pittsburgh for the last four weeks. The success of IRES alumni during and after the program demonstrates the program's accomplishments. For example, after completing his IRES fellowship, Bradley Harken participated in MCSI's FIPSE-CAPES program in Brazil. Bradley also was a winner of the US Environmental Agency's People, Prosperity, and the Planet Student Design Competition. Curtis Larimer moved from being an IRES fellow as an undergraduate to an IGERT doctoral fellow. Mr. Larimer's doctoral research is a direct extension of his IRES research.

In summer 2012, six IRES undergraduate students traveled to Brazil, under the direction of **Bhavna Sharma** (IGERT alumna and visiting assistant professor in MCSI and the department of Civil and Environmental Engineering), to participate in the program to design a rapidly deployable bamboo gridshell for shelter in event of a natural disaster. The Brazil research rotation included a three-week trip to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, where the students engaged in research at Pontificia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro (PUC-Rio) with Dr. Khosrow Ghavami. In addition to research in



2012 Pitt IRES students at BambuParque learning about bamboo from plantation owner Mr. Luiz Ingles.

Rio de Janeiro, the students traveled to Bananal, São Paulo to visit BambuParque, a local bamboo plantation. At the plantation the students were hosted by Truman French, a Harvard University exchange student studying at PUC-Rio, and by Mr. Luiz Ingles, the plantation owner. The students presented their research at the MCSI Undergraduate Research Program Symposium in July 2012.



Bhavna Sharma at the Jardim Botânico in Rio.

In 2007, MCSI was awarded a grant that would bring Brazilian undergraduate engineering students to Pitt—as well as send additional Pitt undergraduates to Brazil—for semester-long study. The **FIPSE-CAPES** grant was provided by the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE)—through the US Department of Education—and its Brazilian counterpart, the Coordenação de Aperfeiçoamento de Pessoal de Nível Superior (CAPES). The program has proven extremely valuable to both MCSI's IGERT and IRES programs. The interaction between the Brazilian and American students enhances their language abilities and cultural understandings. The students are able to interact beyond the classroom and establish key links in terms of housing logistics and research collaboration. In 2009, MCSI received a second FIPSE-CAPES grant. To date, nine students from Brazil and 12 students from Pitt have participated in the program.

By integrating the IGERT, IRES, and FIPSE-CAPES programs, MCSI has created research teams that overcome logistical barriers, develop long-term research collaborations, and foster interest in Brazil, sustainability, and graduate education among our undergraduate students.

In addition to the above programs, the School of Engineering annually offers the course “**Engineering for a Better Environment: Brazil.**” This course, taught during the summer semester, includes pre-departure class sessions that orient the students to Brazil and to the subject of renewable energy utilization, followed by a two-week study trip to the Florianópolis region in southern Brazil. **Kent Harries** (Associate Professor, Civil and Environmental Engineering) directed the 2012 course in which 11 students were enrolled (see front cover).

Finally, in part due to the very active programs of the School of Engineering and MCSI in and with Brazil, four undergraduate students from Brazil are attending Pitt (two in engineering) this semester as part of the Science Without Borders (**SWB**) program sponsored by the Brazilian government. SWB's objectives are to promote consolidation, expansion, and internationalization of the science/technology and innovation competitiveness of Brazil.

The initiative is a joint effort of the Ministries for Science, Technology, and Innovation (MCTI) and the Ministry of Education (MEC). Over the next four years, SWB plans to grant up to 101,000 scholarships for Brazilian undergraduate and graduate students to study abroad in STEM (Science/Technology/Engineering/Mathematics) disciplines. Pitt hopes to host additional SWB students during the duration of the program.

For additional information on the Mascaro Center for Sustainable Innovation, go to: <http://www.mascarocenter.pitt.edu/>

The editor would like to thank **Kent Harries** (Associate Professor, Civil and Environmental Engineering), **Gena M. Kovalcik** (Codirector, MCSI), **Kristine Lalley** (Director of International Engineering Initiatives, Swanson School of Engineering), **Curtis Larimer** (IGERT Fellow, Department of Mechanical Engineering and Materials Science), **Kim Leasure** (Office Manager, MCSI), **Bhavna Sharma** (Visiting Assistant Professor, MCSI, and Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering), and **Larry J. Shuman** (Professor and Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Swanson School of Engineering) for providing information and photographs for this article.

MCSI Staff (from top): Gena M. Kovalcik (Codirector), Eric Beckman (Codirector), Laura Schafer (Deputy Director), Melissa Bilec (Assistant Director for Education and Outreach), and Kim Leasure (Office Manager).



## Honors Day

On April 11, 2012, the Center for Latin American Studies (CLAS) held its annual reception to celebrate the achievements of students and faculty in Latin American Studies at the University of Pittsburgh. The occasion recognizes fellowships, awards, and grants administered through CLAS as well as those from other units of the University and from organizations outside the University. A welcome and opening remarks were provided by **Larry Feick** (Director of the University Center for International Studies and Senior Director of International Programs), and CLAS faculty member **Shalini Puri** (Associate Professor, Department of English) delivered the feature address.



### **CLAS Support to Faculty and Students for Study, Research, and Travel**

Each year, CLAS conducts competitions to provide funding for its faculty and students to undertake study, research, and travel that will enhance their expertise on the Latin American/Caribbean region. During 2011-12, CLAS faculty and students were the recipients of 132 awards administered through the Center, and 71 students completed certificates/related concentrations. Funding for the awards came from a variety of sources, including: the Howard Heinz Latin American Archaeology Fund, The Andrew W. Mellon Latin American Archaeology Fund, the Howard Heinz Latin American Social and Public Policy Fund, the U.S. Department of Education, anonymous donors, Violeta F. Rodríguez, the Shirley Kregar Scholarship Fund, the Cole and Marty Blasier Scholarship Fund, the Research and Teaching Fund for Latin American Studies, the Student Endowment Fund for the Latin American Studies Program, the University Center for International Studies, and the University of Pittsburgh.

Numerous faculty members served on committees to select the recipients of these awards. The staff of CLAS extends their appreciation to these faculty for taking time from their busy schedules to accomplish this task:

**Elizabeth Arkush** (Anthropology), **Jerome Branche** (Hispanic Languages and Literatures), **Bobby Chamberlain** (Hispanic Languages and Literatures), **Maria Auxiliadora Cordero** (Anthropology), **Alicia Covarrubias** (Hispanic Languages and Literatures), **Kathleen M. DeWalt** (Anthropology), **Elizabeth Monasterios** (Hispanic Languages and Literatures), **Scott Morgenstern** (Political Science), **Chiara Nardone** (Hispanic Languages and Literatures), **Paul Nelson** (Public and International Affairs), **Lara Putnam** (History), **Michael Rizzi** (Public and International Affairs), **Dorolyn Smith** (Linguistics), **Stewart Sutin** (Education), and **Nuno Themudo da Silva** (Public and International Affairs).



**¡Felicitaciones/Parabéns** to the most recent CLAS graduates!

**Graduate Certificate in Latin American Studies**

*August 2011*

**Betina González-Azcárate**—Hispanic Languages and Literatures

**Andrea Kamouyerou**—Behavioral Public Health Services (Public Health)

**Ryan Lincoln**—Public and International Affairs (GSPIA)

**Jorge Zavaleta**—Hispanic Languages and Literatures  
*December 2011*

**Laura Macia-Vergara**—Anthropology  
*April 2012*

**Matthew Casey**—History

**Allison Coffman**—NGOs and Civil Society (GSPIA)

**Marissa Germain**—Development Planning and Sustainability (GSPIA)

**Adriana LaMonte**—Global Political Economy (GSPIA)

**Sarah Ohmer**—Hispanic Languages and Literatures

**George Palacios**—Hispanic Languages and Literatures

**Graduate Certificate in Latin American Social and Public Policy**

*April 2012*

**Daniel Munari**—Development Planning and Sustainability (GSPIA)

**Undergraduate Certificate in Latin American Studies**

*August 2011*

**Lacie Buckwalter**—Spanish

**Tanya Chambers**—English Writing/Spanish and Linguistics minor

**Lindsay Cummings**—Spanish/Environmental Studies

**Lindsey Kasmiroski**—Political Science

**Christina Lingenfelter**—CBA: Accounting

**Anna Mansueto**—Molecular Biology

**Leigh Anne Miguelez**—English Writing/Portuguese minor

**Michelle Paiseley**—CBA: Political Science

**Rachel Scholten**—Sociology

**Kathleen Wilson**—Environmental Studies

**Sara Valenzuela**—Film Studies/Urban Studies  
*December 2011*

**Youssef Abdelwahab**—Anthropology/Spanish minor

**Allison Guess**—Political Science/Spanish

**Katherine Marron**—Linguistics

*April 2012*

**Kathryn Azzara**—Communication/Spanish

**Cassandra Baiano**—Sociology/Spanish

**Peter Cahill**—Linguistics/Portuguese minor

**Nicole Carey**—Political Science

**Catherine Chiappa**—History/Urban Studies

**Anastasia Coates**—Spanish

**Rachel Federonko**—CBA: Information Science

**Seth Folkenroth**—History/Political Science/Spanish minor

**Leah Garman**—Linguistics/Spanish

**Emily Grant**—Urban Studies/Spanish minor

**Rachael Greenwalt**—Anthropology

**Benjamin Hinman**—CBA: Global Management

**Barbara Johnson**—Psychology/Spanish

**Stacey Jones**—Spanish

**Fata Karva**—Political Science/Africana Studies

**Holly Keene**—Spanish/Linguistics

**Meredith Kerrigan**—Anthropology/Spanish

**Kendra King**—English Writing

**Lindsay Kramer**—Spanish/Anthropology

**Lindsay Lanteri**—Political Science/Urban Studies

**Rosie McGill**—Linguistics/Portuguese minor

**Moriah Mock**—Spanish

**Drew Myers**—CBA: Spanish

**Loren Schrieffer**—Film Studies

**Nicole Spangler**—Spanish

**Hannah Spiers**—Anthropology/Urban Studies

**Sierra Starks**—English Writing

**Colleen Steffan**—History/Religious Studies minor

**Rachel Stimely**—History/Spanish minor

**Stella Taylor**—Social Work

**Martha Vazquez**—History/Economics minor

**Christopher Wetzel**—Spanish/Portuguese minor

**Ariana Wright**—CGS: Media and Professional Communications

**Merritt Wuchina**—Anthropology/English Writing

**Related Concentration in Latin American Studies**

*August 2011*

**Mikaela Alger**—Biology/Anthropology

**Allison Camp**—Urban Studies/Administration of Justice minor

**Geena Jackson**—Political Science/English

**Katherine Pettick-Perez**—CBA: Spanish

*December 2011*

**Jessica Borrell**—Anthropology/SHRS-EMS

**Gregory McKee**—Environmental Studies

*April 2012*

**Joshua Diller**—English Writing

**Danika Ervin**—History/Political Science

**Gabriella Huffman**—CBA: Psychology

**Kate Jacobs-Ferderbar**—Spanish

**Dane Miller**—Biology

**Caroline Sefcik**—Anthropology/Sociology

Congratulations to all!

## Honor's Day Featured Speaker

**Shalini Puri**

(Associate Professor of English and Director of the Literature Program) works on postcolonial theory and cultural studies of the global south with an emphasis on the Caribbean. Her award-winning book, *The Caribbean Postcolonial: Social Equality, Post-Nationalism, and Cultural Hybridity*, explores the relations among nationalisms and feminisms and assesses various theo-

ries and histories of cultural hybridity. She continues to be interested in researching the cultural practices, conflicts, and solidarities that have arisen out of the overlapping African and Asian diasporas set in motion by slavery and indentureship. She is currently completing a book entitled *The Grenada Revolution in the Caribbean Present: Operation Urgent Memory*, which studies the conflicting cultural memories of the Grenada Revolution as they surface in the arts, everyday life, landscape, and the diaspora. It explores the legacies of the Grenada Revolution for egalitarian politics in the region. She is also working on a second, collaborative book, entitled *Theorizing Fieldwork in the Humanities*. She is co-editor (with Kofi Campbell) of the Palgrave series New Caribbean Studies. In 2009, for the 50th anniversary of the Cuban Revolution and the 30th anniversary of the Grenadian Revolution, she organized a colloquium entitled "Remembering the Future: The Legacies of Radical Politics in the Caribbean," which critically assessed the futures and limits of radical politics in the region. In 2005, she convened an international conference entitled "Comparative Postcolonialities: Aesthetics, History, Locality."

Shalini has worked closely with the Center on a number of projects as well as having served on a variety of CLAS committees. Her laudatory comments about the Center and its staff were greatly appreciated.

**Honors (continued)****FACULTY RESEARCH GRANTS (6)**

Purpose: To help support small-scale research projects or provide seed money for larger projects by faculty members.  
Awardees:

**Jorge Abad** (Assistant Professor, Engineering): "Dynamics of the Anabranching Amazon River"

**Daniel Budny** (Associate Professor, Engineering): "ENGR1098—International Senior Design Experience in Ecuador"

**María Auxiliadora Cordero** (Research Associate, Anthropology): "Solving the Mystery of Repainted Pottery: Analysis of Funerary Vessels from Northern Highland Ecuador"

**Hugo Nutini** (University Professor, Anthropology): "Sociocultural Change in the Tlaxcala-Pueblan Valley (1958- 2012)"

**Aníbal Pérez-Liñán** (Associate Professor, Political Science): "Cabinet Stability in Latin American Presidential Democracies"

**Nuno Themudo da Silva** (Associate Professor, Public and International Affairs): "Fighting Corruption in Brazil: An Examination of Civil Society's Role"

**GRADUATE STUDENT FIELD RESEARCH GRANTS (16)**

Purpose: To help support short-term field research projects by graduate students.

Awardees:



Monica (on right) in Chile.

**Nora Bridges** (Anthropology): "Kichwa Hybrid Remedies: A Pilot Investigation"

**Andrea Cabel Garcia** (Hispanic Languages and Literatures): "Displacement, Art, and Survival: A Peruvian Amazonian Case Study"

Andrea in the Peruvian Amazon.

**Monica Barrientos** (Hispanic Languages and Literatures): "Inside Chile's Student Movement"





**Gabriel Chouhy** (Sociology): “Class and Consumption in Uruguay”

**Kimberlee Eberle-Sudre** (Education): “Educational Quality in Brazilian Public Schools”

**Sebastian Fajardo Bernal** (Anthropology): “Settlement Partners in Early Complex Societies: A Case Study in the Colombian Highlands”

**John Galante** (History): “Lunfardidad: Hybrid Identities in Buenos Aires During the 1910s and 1920s”

**Jessica Gogan** (History of Art and Architecture): “Art, Pedagogy, and Participation in 21st Century Latin America”

**Juan Nicolas Hernandez Aguilera** (Public and International Affairs): “Preliminary Evaluation of Alternative Programs to Incentivize Illegal Drugs Eradication”

**Jesse Horst** (History): “‘The Triumphant Revolution’: Slum Clearance, Rent Control and the Cuban State”

**Arne Romanowski** (Hispanic Languages and Literatures): “Mapping the Afro-Colombian Experience in the Late Twentieth Century: Treading in the Footsteps of Arnolfo Palacios, Manuel Zapata Olivella, and Jorge Artele” [declined]

**María Julia Rossi** (Hispanic Languages and Literatures): “Scribbles Under the Surface: Latin American Avant Garde in their Drafts and Manuscripts”



María Julia Rossi.

**Luis Alejandro Trelles Yorza** (Political Science): “Organizing the Presidents’ Agenda: Where, When and Why do Presidents Travel”

**Kelly Urban** (History): “For the Poor Sick Ones and for Cuba: Nationalism and Tuberculosis in Cuba, 1926-1959”

**María D. Venegas** (Anthropology): “Interculturality in Practice: Community Mobilization in the North Atlantic Autonomous Region of Nicaragua”

**Sofia Vera** (Political Science): “Why do Many Legislators in Latin America not Seek Reelection?”

US DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOREIGN LANGUAGE AND AREA STUDIES FELLOWSHIPS (Academic Year 2011-12) (7)

Purpose: To support graduate students in their study of Latin American languages and the area.

Awardees:

**Rachel Chamberlain** (Anthropology), Portuguese

**Allison Coffman** (Public and International Affairs), Quechua

**Jesse Horst** (History), Portuguese

Allison Coffman.



Sofia Vera.



**Adriana M. Lamonte** (Public & International Affairs), Portuguese

**Trisha Netsch** (Anthropology), Quechua

**Kayla L. Paulk** (Hispanic Languages and Literatures), Portuguese

**Adrienne Washington** (Linguistics), Portuguese

US DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOREIGN LANGUAGE AND AREA STUDIES FELLOWSHIPS (Summer 2011-12) (3)

Purpose: To support students in their study of Latin American languages.

Awardees:

**Travis Fink** (Anthropology), Kichwa

**Rachel Gately** (History/Spanish), Portuguese

**Kayla L. Paulk** (Hispanic Languages and Literatures), Portuguese

LATIN AMERICAN SOCIAL AND PUBLIC POLICY FELLOWSHIPS (Academic Year 2011-12) (4)

Purpose: To assist Latin Americanist scholars interested in various dimensions of social policy to pursue advanced graduate studies.

Awardees:

**Nestor Castañeda** (Political Science)

**Maria del Rosario Escorcía** (Public and International Affairs)

**Edgar Largaespada** (Public and International Affairs)

**Sofia B. Vera** (Political Science)

GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS IN LATIN AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY—Department of Anthropology (2011-12) (7)

Purpose: To provide support for students (primarily from Latin America) to pursue studies in archaeology leading to the doctoral degree in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Pittsburgh.

Awardees:

**Gabriela Cervantes** (Peru)

**Sebastián Fajardo Bernal** (Colombia)

**Lizette Muñoz** (Peru)

**Francisco Romano** (Colombia)

**Lauren Herckis** (U.S.)

**Julie A. Hoggarth** (U.S.)

**Felipe Sol** (Costa Rica)

TUITION REMISSION FELLOWSHIPS (Academic Year 2011-12) (20)

Purpose: To provide support for students (primarily those from Latin America) in the form of full or partial tuition remission fellowships.

Awardees:

**Morgan Brown** from U.S. (Public and International Affairs)

**Gabriel Chouhy Algorta** from Uruguay (Sociology)

**Alana DeLoge** from U.S. (Public Health)

**Maria del Rosario Escorcía** from Colombia (Public and International Affairs)

**Kimberlee Eberle-Sudre** from U.S. (Education)

**Francisco Florez Bolivar** from Colombia (Public and International Affairs)

**José David Herazo Rivera** from Colombia (Education)

**Jesse Horst** from U.S. (History)

## Honors (continued)

## CLASicos • Summer 2012

**Juan Nicolas Hernandez Aguilera** from Colombia (Public and International Affairs)

**Katherine Lasky** from U.S. (Public and International Affairs)

**Mildred Lopez** from Peru (Hispanic Languages and Literatures)

**Gustavo Makanaky Cordoba** from Colombia (Public and International Affairs)

**Lizette Muñoz** from Peru (Anthropology)

**Gabriela Nuñez** from Peru (Communication)

**Sarah Ohmer** from U.S. (Hispanic Languages and Literatures)

**Rodolfo Ortiz** from Bolivia (Hispanic Languages and Literatures)

**Andrew Reed** from U.S. (Public and International Affairs)

**Reynaldo Rojo Mendoza** from Mexico (Political Science)

**Bernadette Vega Sanchez** from Colombia (Public and International Affairs)

**Adrienne Washington** from U.S. (Linguistics)

TRAVEL TO PROFESSIONAL MEETINGS (Academic Year 2011-12) (37)

Purpose: To provide faculty, students, and staff with travel funds to support their participation in conferences/meetings on Latin America.

Awardees:

FACULTY (17)

**G. Reid Andrews** (History), **Robert Barker** (Law), **Alvaro Bernal** (Spanish, Johnstown campus), **Jerome Branche** (Hispanic Languages and Literatures), **Maria Auxiliadora Cordero** (Anthropology), **Alicia Covarrubias** (Hispanic Languages and Literatures, Greensburg campus), **Jorge Delgado** (Education), **Laura Gotkowitz** (History), **Joshua Lund** (Hispanic Languages and Literatures), **Martha Mantilla** (Library), **Elizabeth Monasterios** (Hispanic Languages and Literatures), **Scott Morgenstern** (Political Science), **Anibal Pérez-Liñán** (Political Science), **James B. Richardson III** (Anthropology), **Rob Ruck** (History), **Richard Scaglion** (Anthropology), **Nuno Themudo da Silva** (Public and International Affairs)

STUDENTS (20)

**Ignacio Arana Araya** (Political Science), **Monica Barrientos** (Hispanic Languages and Literatures), **Alejandra Boza** (History), **Hannah Burdette** (Hispanic Languages and Literatures), **Roberto Campbell** (Anthropology), **Miguel Carreras** (Political Science), **Gabriel Chouhy Algorta** (Sociology), **Emma Freeman** (Hispanic Languages and Literatures), **Francisco Garrido** (Anthropology), **Bruno Hoepers** (Political Science), **Hugo Ikehara** (Anthropology), **Alexandru Lefter** (Hispanic Languages and Literatures), **Arturo Matute-Castro** (Hispanic Languages and Literatures), **Elizabeth Molnar** (History), **John Polga-Hecimovich** (Political Science), **Roberto Ponce-Cordero** (Hispanic Languages and Literatures), **Reynaldo Rojo Mendoza** (Political Science), **Arne Romanowski** (Hispanic Languages and Literatures), **María Julia Rossi** (Hispanic Languages and Literatures), **Yen-Pin Su** (Political Science)

UNDERGRADUATE SEMINAR/FIELD TRIP, SÃO LUIS, MARANHÃO, BRAZIL (2012)

Purpose: Each year CLAS subsidizes most of the cost of sending a group of undergraduates, selected on a competitive basis, to a Latin American country where each student conducts an individually designed research project.

Project Director: **Ana Paula Carvalho** (Hispanic Languages and Literature)

Undergraduate Participants in the 2012 Seminar and Field Trip (14):

**Matthew Auger** (Business/Spanish)

**Felicia Beadle** (Linguistics/Sociology)



Left to right: Nana, Lindsay, and Felicia in São Luis.

**Stephanie Byars** (Spanish)

**Alexis Doroski** (Spanish/Urban Studies)

**Kathryn Egan** (Spanish/Biology)

**Richard Hill** (History/Political Science)

**Lindsay Kramer** (Spanish/Anthropology)

**Mary Mallampalli** (Spanish/Political Science)

**Nana Marfo** (Psychology/Neuroscience)

**Courtney Sladic** (Economics/Spanish)

**Chelsea Vecchiarelli** (English Writing)

**Alyssa Weisensee** (Spanish/Anthropology)

**Devani Whitehead** (Communications)

**Meghan Williams** (Spanish)

2010-11 EDUARDO LOZANO MEMORIAL DISSERTATION PRIZE

Purpose: The prize is awarded annually for the best doctoral dissertation at the University of Pittsburgh on a topic related to Latin America, the Caribbean, or Latin American communities in other countries.

Awardee: **Betina González-Azcárate** (PhD 2011

Hispanic Languages and Literatures) for "*Lecciones de esclavos y animales fabulosos: Literatura y crítica moral en la América Latina del siglo XIX*" (*Plotting Slaves, Talking Animals: The Politics of Morals in Nineteenth-Century Latin American Literature*)"

Honorable Mention: **Juan Carlos Rodríguez-Raga**

(PhD 2011 Political Science) for "*Strategic Prudence in the Colombian Constitutional Court, 1992-2006*"



## Eduardo Lozano Memorial Dissertation Prize

The Eduardo Lozano Memorial Dissertation Prize was created to honor the life and work of Eduardo Lozano, who directed the Latin American collection at Hillman Library from 1967 until his death in August 2006 and developed it into one of the most outstanding collections of its kind in the world. Lozano was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in 1925. In addition to being a distinguished librarian, he was a renowned painter and poet. The prize is awarded annually for the best doctoral dissertation at the University of Pittsburgh on a topic related to Latin America, the Caribbean, or Latin American communities in other countries. The prize is funded by annual contributions from the Center for Latin American Studies, the Department of Hispanic Languages and Literatures, and generous donations to the Eduardo Lozano Memorial Dissertation Prize Fund.

For 2010-11, the prize was awarded to **Betina González-Azcárate** (Hispanic Languages and Literatures) for her dissertation “Lecciones de esclavos y animales fabulosos: Literatura y crítica moral en la América Latina del siglo XIX” (Plotting Slaves, Talking Animals: The Politics of Morals in Nineteenth-Century Latin American Literature).” In addition to the great prestige accorded to this award, **Betina** received a cash prize of \$1,250. Quoting briefly from the award letter sent to Dr. González-Azcárate by the selection committee: “The committee was impressed by your use of examples to problematize earlier facile assertions about national allegory (which usually used novels as their main example instead of the genres discussed here) and to show how the plays and fables portray the power dynamics in the three nations, all of which were in processes of national consolidation in the period surveyed. We were also very impressed by the clarity and power of the writing. This is an excellent dissertation.”

Prior to coming to Pitt, Betina completed a Master’s of Fine Arts in Bilingual Creative Writing (2006) at the University of Texas at El Paso. Her 2006 book, *Arte menor* (Alfaguara) won the Clarín Annual Literary Prize for novels. In January 2012, Dr. González-Azcárate returned to her home country of Argentina to work at the Universidad de Buenos Aires. The PDF version of the dissertation can be viewed at: <http://etd.library.pitt.edu/ETD/available/etd-04182011-113845/>.



The committee also awarded an Honorable Mention to **Juan Carlos Rodríguez-Raga** (Political Science) for his dissertation, titled, “Strategic Prudence in the Colombian Constitutional Court, 1992-2006.” Dr. Rodríguez-Raga currently serves as Profesor Asistente, Departamento de Ciencia Política, Universidad de los Andes (Bogotá, Colombia). The PDF version of the dissertation can be viewed at: <http://etd.library.pitt.edu/ETD/available/etd-08062011-172156/>.

In their letter to Dr. Rodríguez-Raga, the committee members noted that “In an elegant display of logic and game theory, you test a series of propositions concerning the circumstances under which those pressures [from the executive branch] have the greatest impact on court decisions. Your conclusions and methods provide the basis for future comparative work on courts of this kind, and for the study of the politics of judicial decision-making.”

## GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT FOR EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH (1)

Purpose: To provide support for graduate students in Latin American Studies.

Awardee:

**Kimberlee Eberle-Sudre** (Administrative and Policy Studies-Education)

## GRADUATE TEACHING FELLOWSHIP (1)

Purpose: To teach CLAS' core undergraduate course "Latin America and the Caribbean."

Awardee:

**Matthew Rhodes** (Graduate Student, Administrative and Policy Studies-Education)



Lindsay Kramer, Drew Myers, and Moriah Mock.



Alyssa Weisensee.

## THE COLE AND MARTY BLASIER AWARDS (2)

Purpose: For study/research in Latin America.

Awardees:

**Alyssa Weisensee** (Spanish/Anthropology)

**Katie Lutzger** (English Writing and Literature)



Courtney Sladic.

## THE VIOLETA F. RODRÍGUEZ AWARDS (2)

Purpose: To provide an incentive for undergraduates to study abroad.

Awardees:

**Julia Radomski** (Anthropology/Economics)

**Courtney Sladic** (Economics/Spanish, Portuguese)

## SHIRLEY KREGAR SCHOLARSHIPS (2)

Purpose: To support study by undergraduate students in Latin America.

Awardees:

**Stephanie Byars** (Spanish/Portuguese, Linguistics)

**Sarah Sleasman** (Spanish/Linguistics)



## CLAS STUDENT AMBASSADORS (3)

Purpose: For outstanding students to assist the Center in disseminating information (principally to undergraduates) about training programs and other research and study opportunities. Student ambassadors may receive support in the form of full or partial tuition remission fellowships.

Awardees:

**Lindsay Kramer** (Spanish/Anthropology)

**Moriah Mock** (Spanish)

**Drew Myers** (College of Business Administration/Spanish)

## CLAS WEBLAS/PANORAMAS PROJECT ASSISTANTS (3)

Purpose: To assist in the development, implementation, and maintenance of CLAS' web portal—Panoramas.

**Rachael Greenwalt** (Anthropology)

**Allison Guess** (Political Science/Spanish)

**Rose McKinley** (Communications/History)



Rachael Greenwalt.



Allison Guess.



Rose McKinley.

Sarah Sleasman and Stephanie Byars.



## UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING FELLOWSHIP (2)

Purpose: To provide undergraduates with the opportunity to enrich their educational experience by helping a faculty member to teach or develop a course.

Awardees:

*Fall 2011*

**Cassandra Baiano** (Italian/Sociology) with **Matthew Rhodes** (Graduate Student, Administrative and Policy Studies-Education)

*Spring 2012*

**Stephanie Byars** (Spanish/Portuguese, Linguistics) with **Ana Paula Carvalho** (Portuguese Language Coordinator, Hispanic Languages and Literatures)

## 2011-12 University of Pittsburgh and External Fellowships and Awards

### FACULTY

#### DIETRICH SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES



Diego Chaves-Gnecco.

*Journal of World Systems Research*, to: **Jacquelyn G. Smith** (Sociology)

Mid-America Theatre Conference Robert A. Schanke Research Award, to: **Lisa K. Jackson-Schebetta** (Theatre Arts)

Middle Atlantic Council of Latin American Studies Arthur P. Whitaker Prize, 2011, to: **G. Reid Andrews** (History)

2012 Chancellor's Distinguished Public Service Award, for outstanding contributions to the community at large by members of the faculty, using their academic expertise, as determined by colleagues and community leaders, to: **Diego Chaves-Gnecco** (Medicine)

Conference on Latin American History Tibesar Prize, to: **G. Reid Andrews** (History)



Jackie Smith.

Former CLAS Associate Director Shirley Kregar and Reid Andrews at Honors Day.

JOHN A. SWANSON SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING 2012 Carnegie Science Award for



Advanced Materials, to: **Eric J. Beckman** (Engineering)

JOSEPH M. KATZ GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS 2011 Herbert Simon Award for Outstanding Contribution in Information Technology and Decision Making, from the *International Journal of Information Technology and Decision Making*, to: **Luis G. Vargas** (Business)

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

*Elsevier Safety Science Journal*, appointed editor, to: **Louise Comfort** (Public and International Affairs)

Donald M. Goldstein Teacher of the Year Award, awarded by the GSPIA Student Cabinet, to: **Nuno Themudo** (Public and International Affairs)

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Dr. James L. Craig Award for Teaching Excellence, presented by the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health to recognize teaching and mentoring excellence by GSPH faculty, to: **Martha Ann Terry** (Public Health)



Nuno Themudo.

### GRADUATE STUDENTS

FRANCISCO JOSÉ DE CALDAS COLOMBIA GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP (COLCIENCIAS), to: **Francisco Flórez-Bolívar** (History)

DUMBARTON OAKS FELLOWSHIP, to: **Laura Gamez** (Anthropology)

FRIENDS OF THE FRICK FINE ARTS AND WILKINSON TRAVEL GRANT, for research by graduate students in art history, to: **Jessica Gogan** (History of Art and Architecture)

FULBRIGHT GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP, for advanced study and/or research at the graduate level, to: **Francisco Garrido Escobar** (Anthropology)

DR. LILLIAN B. LAWLER FELLOWSHIP, for outstanding careers in teaching and research by dissertation-level students, to: **Natalie Kimball** (History)

PROVOST HUMANITIES PRE-DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP, for exceptional ability and promise by students who wish to enter the University of Pittsburgh in a program leading to a PhD, to: **Andrea Elvira Cabel Garcia** (Hispanic Languages and Literatures)

SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES RESEARCH COUNCIL OF CANADA DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP, for highly qualified graduate students in the social sciences and humanities, to: **Elizabeth Molnar** (History)



Elizabeth Molnar.

SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD, to: **Daniel Nuñez**

ANDREW MELLON PREDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS, for superior performance in the academic disciplines of arts and sciences at the graduate level, to:

**Pedro Argüello García** (Anthropology)

**Nora C. Bridges** (Anthropology)

**Miguel Carreras** (Political Science)

**Yolanda Hernández-Albújar** (Sociology)

**Hugo Ikehara** (Anthropology)

**George Palacios Palacios** (Hispanic Languages and Literatures)

**Roberto Ponce Cordero** (Hispanic Languages and Literatures)

Nora C. Bridges.



Anne Marie Toccket.

SARAH F. AND ELIZABETH GRAF ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP, to: **Nicole Novak** (Education)

K. LEROY IRVIS DIVERSITY DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP, to: **Rashonda Ross** (Education)

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FACULTY AWARD, for the most distinguished record among graduates of the international development program in terms of academic achievement and service to the school, to: **Anne Marie Toccket** (International Development, Public and International Affairs)

MATTHEW B. RIDGWAY CENTER AWARD, GSPIA and the University Center for International Studies, for scholarship and service in advancing the center's goal of international security, to: **Maria Liliana Devia** (Security and Intelligence Studies, Public and International Affairs)

RHO CHI SOCIETY, ALPHA OMICRON CHAPTER, for scholarship and leadership. Initiate for 2011-2012: **Chelsea Fitzgerald** (Pharmacy)

DEAN'S DAY BEHAVIORAL AND COMMUNITY HEALTH SCIENCES AWARD, for outstanding research, to: **Kimberly Rak** (Behavioral/Community Health Sciences, Public Health)

DEAN'S DAY CATHERINE CARTIER-ULRICH MEMORIAL AWARD, presented by the Center for Public Health practice for outstanding research focused on service to the underserved, to: **Kimberly Rak** (Behavioral/Community Health Sciences, Public Health)

RORY A. COOPER AND DION JOHNSON STUDENT PAPER AWARD, to a faculty-selected student in the Department of Rehabilitation Science and Technology, to: **Maria Luisa Toro-Hernández** (Health and Rehabilitation Sciences)

REHABILITATION ENGINEERING SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA (RESNA) STUDENT SCIENTIFIC PAPER COMPETITION, to: **Maria Luisa Toro-Hernández** (Health and Rehabilitation Sciences)

2011 NATIONALITY ROOM SCHOLARSHIP FOR STUDY ABROAD, RUTH CRAWFORD MITCHELL MEMORIAL AWARD to participate in an internship with Awamaki, a nonprofit organization that assists women in establishing weaving businesses, in Ollantaytambo, Peru, to: **Allison M. Coffman** (Public and International Affairs)

Maria Liliana Devia.



Maria Luisa Toro-Hernández.

2010 NATIONALITY ROOM SCHOLARSHIP FOR STUDY ABROAD, STANLEY PROSTREDNIK GRANT, to study the evolution of social commentary in contemporary Cuban hip-hop lyrics within Havana, Cuba, to: **Kayla L. Paulk** (Hispanic Languages and Literatures)

2011 NATIONALITY ROOM SCHOLARSHIP FOR STUDY ABROAD, IVAN SANTA-CRUZ MEMORIAL AWARD to conduct research on the Chilean Boy Scout movement, especially during the dictatorships, in Santiago, Chile, to: **Parker Dylan Shaw** (Hispanic Languages and Literatures)

#### UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

UNIVERSITY SCHOLARS, for attaining the top two percent in cumulative undergraduate academic standing by school.

*Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences*

*Seniors*

**Peter T. Cahill, Jessica F. Fedoronko, and Moriah L. Mock**

Peter T. Cahill.



Kayla L. Paulk.



*Juniors***Alexis M. Adams***School of Social Work**Seniors***Rachele McFarland***College of Business**Administration**Seniors***Jenna E. Tanenbaum**

PHI BETA KAPPA MEMBERS, for superior scholastic achievement in undergraduate programs in the arts and sciences. Initiates for 2011:

**Mikaela Marie Alger****Jessica Lynn Borrell****Samantha Marie Evanoff****Stacy Christine Jones****Stephanie Lynne Krowka****Katherine Elizabeth Lasky****Nana Yaa Ampoma Marfo****Clifton Dyer McKee****Kristen Painter**

GOLDEN KEY INTERNATIONAL HONOUR SOCIETY, for the top 15 percent of the junior and senior classes. Initiates for 2011-2012:

**Moira Black****Annie Gula****Molly Hallowell****Sarah Sleasman**

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS OUTSTANDING SENIOR AWARD, to: **Claudia Taylor**

DR. JOHN KNOX HALL JR. SCHOLARSHIP, to: **Joanna Sterling**

DAVID SCHENKER STUDENT PRIZE IN ECONOMICS AND PUBLIC INTEREST, to: **Claudia Taylor**



Jenna Tanenbaum.



Claudia Taylor.



Nicola White.

A.J. SCHNEIDER AWARD, to: **Nicola White**

UNDERGRADUATE CREATIVE NONFICTION AWARD, to: **Merritt L. Wuchina**

CHANCELLOR'S UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP (Spring 2012), for

proposing and implementing an innovative research project in collaboration with a sponsoring faculty member, to:



Stacy Jones.

**Stacy Jones** with **Raquel Alfaro** (Hispanic Languages and Literatures)

2011 NATIONALITY ROOMS SCHOLARSHIP FOR STUDY ABROAD, RUTH CRAWFORD MITCHELL MERIT AWARD, to study modern standard Arabic and Egyptian colloquial Arabic at Kalimat Center in Cairo, Egypt, to: **Youssef A. Abdelwahab**

2011 NATIONALITY ROOMS SCHOLARSHIP FOR STUDY ABROAD, SAVINA S. SKEWIS GRANT, to study the Portuguese language and Brazilian culture at the Universidade Federal da Bahia in Salvador da Bahia, Brazil, to: **Devani N. Whitehead**

2011 NATIONALITY ROOMS SCHOLARSHIP FOR STUDY ABROAD, WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL CLUB AWARD, to participate in the University of Pittsburgh's Center for Latin American Studies Field Trip and research the role of women in transition in Rosario, Argentina, to: **Moriah L. Mock**

MARY ELLEN CALLAHAN UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH AWARD, for independent research projects in the social sciences, to:

**Stacy Jones**  
**Evelyn McCoy**

FULBRIGHT U.S. STUDENT PROGRAM, a research, study, or English teaching opportunity that promotes cross-cultural exchange and mutual understanding between nations, to: **Claudia Taylor**

UHC SUMMER RESEARCH ABROAD AWARD, to: **Peter Cahill**

BRACKENRIDGE UNDERGRADUATE SUMMER RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP, for three months of summer support to engage in unfettered undergraduate research leading to a completed work of independent scholarship, to: **Joanna Sterling**

BRACKENRIDGE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS, Fall 2011, to: **Jessica Borrell**  
**Kaitlin Folweiler**

BRACKENRIDGE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS, Spring 2012, to: **Anna Bondar**  
**Nana Marfo**

HONORS RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIP, to support student involvement in research under the direction of a faculty mentor, to: **Joanna Sterling**



Devani N. Whitehead.



Anna Bondar.

## Latin American Lecture and Symposium Series

CLAS' Latin American Lecture and Symposium Series features presentations on a broad range of topics from a variety of disciplines and professions. One goal of the series is to provide the opportunity for CLAS faculty, students, and the general public to be exposed to the great breadth of research approaches that contribute to knowledge of the Latin American and Caribbean region. Because of the scheduling of CLASicos, lectures and symposia that occur after February in any year do not appear in the series' listings in the Winter issue of the newsletter. The following important presentations occurred in March, April, and May 2012 and we are pleased to note them here.

March 2, 2012

SIGNS OF VIOLENCE: MESSAGING, MEDIA AND POLITICS IN MEXICO'S 'DRUG WAR', by **Paul K. Eiss** (Anthropology and History, and Director, Center for the Arts in Society, Carnegie Mellon University)



March 16, 2012

UNJUST MOVEMENTS: OIL AND FOOD INJUSTICES IN ECUADOR AND FLORIDA, by **Patricia Widener** (Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Florida Atlantic University)

March 21, 2012

BOOK SYMPOSIA SERIES, "THE FANTE AND THE TRANSATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE," by **Rebecca Shumway** (Assistant Professor, Department of History, University of Pittsburgh); featuring commentary by: **Edda Fields-Black** (Associate Professor of History, Carnegie Mellon University), **Sandra Greene** (Professor, Department of History, Cornell University), and **Patrick Manning** (Andrew W. Mellon Professor of World History, University of Pittsburgh)

March 22, 2012

GOETHE Y LA TRASTIENDA DE 'EL PUDOR DE LA HISTORIA', by **Ivan Almeida** (co-founder, Borges Center) and BUSTOS DOMECQ Y SUÁREZ LYNCH: DOS ILUSTRES DESCONOCIDOS, by **Cristina Parodi** (co-founder, Borges Center)



March 23, 2012

THE COLOMBIAN CARIBBEAN BETWEEN OBLIVION AND VISIBILITY. ASPECTS OF THE MATERIALITY OF LITERATURE IN GARCÍA MARQUEZ'S NOVEL *CIEN AÑOS DE SOLEDAD*, by **Liliana Gómez-Popescu** (Assistant Professor of Ibero-American Literatures and Cultures, Institute for Romance Languages, Literatures and Cultures, Martin-Luther-University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany)

March 23, 2012

CHOLITAS: GENDER, SEXUALITY, AND DRESS IN BOLIVIA, by **Anna Babel** (Assistant Professor, Spanish and Portuguese, Ohio State University)



March 28, 2012

RECONFIGURING THE PUBLIC: ART, PEDAGOGY AND PARTICIPATION IN CONTEMPORARY ART INSTITUTIONS: THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART, RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL, by **Jessica Gogan** (PhD Candidate, Department of the History of Art and Architecture, University of Pittsburgh)





April 4, 2012  
A READING AND TALK, by  
**Oonya Kempadoo** (Award-Winning Caribbean Author)

April 9, 2012  
BORGES, SOCIAL ORDER,  
AND HUMAN ACTION, by  
**Silvia Dapía** (Professor, Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, City University of New York)



April 10, 2012  
RACIAL INEQUALITY IN  
BRAZIL AND THE UNITED STATES (a Provost Inaugural Lecture), by **G. Reid Andrews** (Distinguished Professor, Department of History, University of Pittsburgh)

April 17, 2012  
FALKLAND/MALVINAS ANNIVERSARY PANEL—  
Experts on the 1982 war between Argentina and Great Britain from both sides of the Atlantic will join specialists on the present-day relations between Latin America and the European Union via videoconferencing to discuss the Falkland/Malvinas conflict, then and now. Participants included: **Mark D. Szuchman** (Professor of History, Florida International University),

**Sir Lawrence Freedman** (Professor of War Studies, King's College, London, Fellow of the British Academy, and Official Historian of the Falklands Campaign), **Carolyn Dudek** (Associate Professor of Political Science, University of Pittsburgh), and **Daniel K. Gibran** (Professor of Political Science, Tennessee State University)

April 18, 2012  
THE INVENTION OF LATIN AMERICA: A TRANSNATIONAL HISTORY OF ANTI-IMPERIALISM, DEMOCRACY, AND RACE, by **Michel Gobat** (Associate Professor, Department of History, University of Iowa)



April 19, 2012  
THE LIFE AND WORKS OF JORGE AMADO, by **Bobby Chamberlain** (Associate Professor, Department of Hispanic Languages and Literatures, University of Pittsburgh)



April 23, 2012  
REESCRITURA Y COLONIALIDAD: CRÍTICA GENÉTICA DE CUBAGUA, DE ENRIQUE BERNARDO NÚÑEZ, by **Alejandro Bruzual** (Universidad Central de Venezuela/Centro de Estudios Latinoamericanos Rómulo Gallegos/CELARG)

May 29, 2012  
LATIN AMERICAN POLITICAL THEORY WORKSHOP: LA PRIMERA TEORÍA DE LA DESCOLONIZACIÓN (THE FIRST THEORY OF DECOLONIZATION), led by **Rafael Bautista** (Bolivian philosopher)



Left to right (standing): Hernan Medina, Constanza Ussa, Juan Duchesne-Winter, Rafael Bautista, Raquel Alfaro, Hanna Burdette, Martha Mantilla, Ximena Postigo, Elizabeth Monasterios, Brenda Swart, Jorge Tapia, Cesar Zamorano, and Rodolfo Ortiz.  
In front: Orlando Ramirez-Carvajal and John Beverley.

## Student and Alumni News *by Julian Asenjo*

Latin America continues to be an increasingly popular destination for Pitt students seeking cross-cultural immersion experiences. Last year, 259 undergraduates lived and studied in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Dutch Antilles, Ecuador, Uruguay, and Peru. This, of course, does not include the many graduate students that flock to Latin America each summer in search of academic resources for their work—CLAS alone funds 20 to 25 students each year to conduct post graduate field research in Latin America and the Caribbean.

An ambitious group of 14 undergraduates participated in the summer 2012 CLAS Seminar/Field Trip to São Luis, Maranhão, Brazil and conducted field research on topics that included perceptions of globalization in business in Brazil, linguistic issues in the teaching of English by Brazilians, and the history of reggae and Rastafarian culture in Maranhão, to name a few. Applications are currently rolling in for the 2013 program which will return to Rosario, Argentina.



2012 Seminar and Field Trip participants in São Luis, Maranhão, Brazil.  
From left to right: Julian Asenjo, Devani Whitehead, Lindsay Kramer, Kathryn Egan, Alyssa Weisensee, Mary Mallampalli, Alexis Doroski, Richard Hill, Ana Paula Carvalho, Chelsea Vecchiarelli, Matthew Auger, Nana Marfo, Stephanie Byars, Meghan Williams, Felicia Beadle, Courtney Sladic, and David Col Debella.



2012 Seminar and Field Trip participants in the historic section of São Luis,.



The spring 2013 Pitt in Cuba is similarly capturing the interest of students with a record number of applications already received far before the deadline. Students from neighboring institutions with interest in Cuban and Caribbean studies are welcome to apply for the immersion program offered in cooperation with the University of Havana. In spring 2012, we were fortunate to welcome our first student from Carnegie Mellon University to the program.

This past summer marked the first official University of Pittsburgh-sponsored Pitt in Ecuador program held at the Instituto Iyarina in Napo Province in the Ecuadorian Amazon. CLAS has had an extensive relationship with the Institute, which has been a destination for many CLAS FLASF recipients in the past to study intensive Kichwa language and culture. (CLAS awarded a record number of nine summer FLAS fellowships, seven to study Kichwa at Iyarina.) A group of 28 students, from a variety of academic backgrounds, enrolled in the intensive program this summer. In addition to the study of indigenous language and culture, students enrolled in courses in ethnobiology and health, population, and nutrition.



Iyarina Director Tod Swanson (on far left) and Kichwa instructor Alana DeLoge (on far right) with summer 2012 FLASF students.

Below: Intensive coursework in Amazonian classrooms at the Instituto Iyarina.



CLAS proudly graduated 74 students in April 2012. Included among them were our distinguished undergraduate ambassadors, **Lindsay Kramer** (Anthropology/Spanish), **Moriah Mock** (Spanish), and **Drew Myers** (Business/Spanish). The three worked very hard during the year to promote and represent the Center. Their efforts are currently paying dividends as we continue to regularly receive certificate applications from new students.



**Youssef Abdelwahab** (BA 2011 Anthropology/Spanish minor) writes: "I am currently teaching English through the Chilean government program Open Doors. The 18th of September marks the national holiday of independence in Chile and Chileans take an entire week off to celebrate the many festivities during this time. I certainly enjoyed a handful of the traditional "diezyocho" festivities, such as dancing the cueca, eating empanadas, and feasting at large asados. However, I



also wanted to take advantage of this chunk of free time to explore intriguing countries and tourist attractions that border the northern frontier of Chile. Therefore, during the bulk of the diezyocho vacation, I visited over six distinguished cities in both Bolivia and Peru. The most breathtaking of which was the magnificent Machu Picchu located on the mountain peaks that tower the small town of Aguas Calientes. Visiting this world wonder has always been a dream of mine so it was a very overwhelming experience for me! Now I am back in the small town of Vallenar, Chile, teaching English to over 400 different students a week at both an elementary school and high school."

**Justine Cortez** (BSW 2010 Social Work) has moved from Washington DC to El Salvador: "I moved to El Salvador in July of 2012 to work with ESNA Village Network, a non-profit that connects villages in rural El Salvador with communities in North America in sustainable, effective partnerships to build lasting social change. I was hired as their internship program coordinator and I am assigned to community projects in Caluco, Sonsonate. Right now I am working with Caluco's first Youth Development Center, where interns will be placed, which serves roughly 4,000 youth and young people in Caluco and its surrounding areas. The Youth Center works to promote and support the talents and skill sets of youth by providing the resources to create social and vocational schools and programs that will provide a basis for entry into the workforce. It is great work and if people want to get involved they can contact me directly at justine.s.cortez@gmail.com or check the site [www.esnavillages.org](http://www.esnavillages.org). We are also on facebook as 'ESNA Village Network.'"



Justine (right) with family and friends in Sonsonate, El Salvador.

From the *ESNA (El Salvador and North America) Village Network Newsletter* (October 2012): "As we look toward 2013 ESNA will begin internship programs for

college and university students...To support this program we have added Justine Cortez to the ESNA team effective August 2012. Justine will be the intern coordinator supporting student safety, providing direction, oversight, program development, and expansion. Justine is a graduate of the University of Pittsburg but has roots in El Salvador. We are very pleased and excited to have her as a member of the ESNA team..."



**Marissa Germain** (MA 2012 GSPIA) writes us: "Hey Julian! I hope this semester is off to a good start and that things are going well at UCIS. I wanted to let you know that I started as a program officer at the World Affairs Council here in Pittsburgh and that I am going to be working on programming for Hispanic Heritage Month. Please keep me updated with whatever is going on with CLAS. Hope all is well! Marissa"

**Betina González-Azcárate** (PhD 2011 Hispanic Languages and Literatures) ha terminado una nueva novela, *Las poseídas*, que tendrá una primera edición muy pequeña en Buenos Aires, por una editorial artesanal de Rosario que se llama *El ombú bonsái*. Una descripción de la novela, para que ya vayan sabiendo de qué se trata: *Hay virginidades inteligentes. Si los padres fueran sinceros en la percepción de sus hijos sin gracia, sobre todo de sus hijas, no dudarían en enviarlos a una escuela católica. La iglesia ha cumplido y cumple esa función social con eficiencia: la de retirar del mundo esas catástrofes de la femineidad, protegiéndolas, cultivando con paciencia el milagro de la floración. Se me ocurre que ése es el mejor argumento para justificar la existencia de colegios como el santa clara de asís. Más de una carrera exitosa ha comenzado con esa temprana negación del cuerpo y la inversión de los mejores años en rigurosas disciplinas que luego encuentran en mejores causas.*

**Carly Gordon** (BA 2006 Spanish/Anthropology/Portuguese minor) writes (via CLAS former Associate Director of Academic Affairs Shirley Kregar): "Hi Julian! My name is Carly Gordon and I am an alumna of Pitt 2006, I graduated with a degree in Spanish and Anthro, minor in Portuguese and also got the certificate in Latin American and West European studies. Shirley and I were very close and she mentored me since the start of my freshman year in 2002. I also did the CLAS



field trip to Valparaíso, Chile in 2004 and then ended up moving back to Chile for over a year and just got back to the States a few months ago! Anyway, I wanted to introduce myself and hope things are going great for you at CLAS! What an amazing place...it's what made my Pitt experience and I would even go as far as saying it shaped me into who I am/where I am today!

I still keep in touch with Shirley and she wanted me to send you updates of a new job that I just got here back in the US. I am now working for a company called Global Arena in downtown Philadelphia (where I am from!). It's a language and cultural services company that provides services in translation, interpretation, intercultural training, and language training. I work in the translation department as a Project Manager and also do primarily Spanish into English translation and occasional Portuguese translating or editing, as well. All of the people I work with are world travelers who love learning foreign languages. It has been a great way to put my language skills and all that I learned with CLAS to use. Saludos cordiales, *Carly*"



the story: <http://new.wellesley.edu/news/stories/node/25969> If you're still in touch with Koichi, please join me in congratulating him. Take care, *Josh*" [Shirley Kregar also wrote to let us know about Koichi's award.]

**Jesse Horst** (Graduate Student, History) was awarded first place among graduate student submissions for the 2012 Jorge Pérez-López Student Prize (sponsored by the Association for the Study of the Cuban Economy) for his paper "Shantytown Revolution: Slum Clearance, Rent Control, and the Cuban State, 1933-55."

**Kayla Hunter** (BA 2011 English Writing) provides a little alumnae update: "I finished serving with the AmeriCorps at the Latino Center this summer, but am now part-time at La Escuelita Arcoiris and Consumer Health Coalition for their Spanish helpline. In January I am leaving for Colombia to teach English for a year. As I continue my work with the Latino population, I always have CLAS and my memories of the field trip in Nicaragua in mind. Keep doin' what you're doin'! Best, *Kayla*"

**Lauren Pucci** (BA 2004 Political Science/Anthropology) is moving on again... "Hola Julian! Thanks so much for the message. I've been working with CMU for about six months now, but will be ending my time here in the near future. I've accepted a fellowship from Rotary International that is sending me to a designated Peace Center in Tokyo, Japan. Only 50 people are selected each year from a worldwide competition, so needless to say it would be foolish not to take advantage of the opportunity. Other locations for the peace centers are in the US, UK, Sweden and Australia, however, I had little input on where I would be based. The Rotary powers that be chose my locale in Tokyo. It is an 18-month program and I will be earning another Masters, but this time with a focus on international law and a portion of it is field based, so I am planning to head back to the Mid-East to complete this component. I depart Pittsburgh August 27<sup>th</sup>! Abrazos, Pucci"



**Joshua Lund** (Associate Professor, Hispanic Languages and Literatures) recently wrote us about **Koichi Hagimoto** (PhD 2010 Hispanic Languages and Literatures): "Dear Colleagues—Some great news about our recent PhD, Koichi Hagimoto, who was awarded the Pinanski Prize

for teaching excellence at Wellesley College, where he is a second-year assistant professor of Spanish. Here's

**Paola Subero** (MA 2010, GSPIA) nos escribe desde Santo Domingo: "Hola Julián.



Cómo has estado? Te cuento que viajo a Pittsburgh ahora en Octubre por unos cinco días. Estaré llegando el lunes 22. Espero que Carolina y yo nos podamos reunir a almorzar contigo, como en los viejos tiempos. Me alegra mucho poder ir a visitar después de dos años de ausencia. Por acá está todo bien, he estado trabajando mucho y estudiando (acabo de comenzar el segundo año de un MBA Ejecutivo que estoy haciendo en Santo Domingo). En la universidad me seleccionaron para formar parte de un equipo que participará en una competencia muy interesante que se llama el CFA Challenge en representación de mi país para el año próximo (<http://www.cfainstitute.org/partners/challenge/Pages/index.aspx>). Un abrazo, Paola”



ginia for the position, wasn't sure if you were aware. Thanks again for saying hello and keep in touch. Cheers y un abrazo! Christine”

**Glenda Vargas** (BA 2010, Linguistics) began a new post as Customer Support Senior Specialist at Ariba, Better Commerce, Inc. in Pittsburgh in July 2012.



Ann Marie in Pittsburgh's Southside.

**Ann Marie Tocket** (MA 2011 GSPIA) has been very busy since returning from her six months of traveling throughout Asia in fall 2011. In addition to serving on the board of the NGO, Nueva Esperanza (Building New Hope), she was recently appointed project coordinator for the Pittsburgh Philanthropy Project, an effort to chronicle the history of philanthropy in Pittsburgh over the past century. There is a forthcoming book, series of oral histories, video storylines, and several civic dialogues that will tell this story and bring it alive. She coordinates this effort at the University of Pittsburgh. In April 2012, Anne Marie was also named director of the Pittsburgh Hostel Project, a \$1 million project to open a hostel in Pittsburgh's Southside by the end of 2013. See the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette article at <http://www.post-gazette.com/stories/local/neighborhoods-city/years-in-the-making-hostel-will-reside-on-the-south-side-646804/> for more details.

**Christine Waller** (MA 2011 GSPIA) writes: “I'm loving my new job as the head of Communications for Mylan's North America region (6,000 employees in the U.S. including Puerto Rico and Canada), overseeing external (media and government relations) and internal (employee communications) projects. It's been a great challenge - LOTS of work - constantly traveling, etc. But all good stuff - I moved to Morgantown, West Vir-

**Kaley Walsh** (BA 2010 Spanish/Linguistics) writes: “I work full time as an Educational Advisor at EducationUSA/Fulbright Commission in Rio de Janeiro. I love my job because of the diversity in the day-to-day. Every day I balance advising students who want to study in the U.S., revising translations, meeting university representatives from the U.S., and building partnerships between U.S. and Brazilian universities. My main focus at work is coordinating the South American Education USA fair circuit which will go through nine cities in six countries. I am constantly contacting our advisors in each of the countries (getting to use my Spanish, English, and Portuguese!) in addition to the U.S. representatives, and our partners from the U.S. Department of Commerce. I am learning so much and having a blast while doing so.”



Kaley with Julian Asenjo during a visit to Pittsburgh in December 2011.



## 8<sup>th</sup> Undergraduate Research Symposium

On March 16, 2012, the 8<sup>th</sup> Undergraduate Research Symposium on Latin America and the Caribbean was held at the University of Pittsburgh—sponsored by the University of Pittsburgh’s Office of the Undergraduate Dean, Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences, Center for Latin American Studies, and Department of Hispanic Languages and Literatures. The goal of the annual symposium is to showcase the high quality of the research on Latin America and the Caribbean undertaken by undergraduate students from Pitt and neighboring universities. The symposium included four panels: (1) Género, violencia y colonialidad en la construcción de la subjetividad cultural latinoamericana; (2) Social and Political Repercussions of Past and Present US and Spanish Cultural Interventions; (3) The Effects of Public Policies on Peruvian and Brazilian Societies; and (4) Contesting Language Policies in Educational Settings. Seventeen students (14 from Pitt, two from Allegheny College, and one from Slippery Rock University) made presentations in Spanish, Portuguese, and English. Among the presenters from Pitt:



Heather A. Shimer.

Rachel Stimely.

Emily Dee Grant.

## Outreach



### Week in Bahia

From April 16 to April 21, 2012, CLAS cosponsored the “Week in Bahia.” This series of events—held at various locations throughout Pittsburgh—celebrated the region of Bahia, Brazil, and was conceived and coordinated by Brazilian singer (and Pittsburgh resident) **Kenia**. Events included an exhibition of life-sized Orixás (deities of Afro-Brazilian religion), lectures (on racial inequality in Brazil and the United States, the life and works of Jorge Amado, and the parallel between Afro-Brazilian and Afro-American cultures), films highlighting Bahian culture (*Mandinga em Manhattan*—about the resistance and evolution of capoeira throughout the world—and *The City of Women*—about the Orixás and the roles women play in Candomblé), and a musical tribute to João Gilberto with Brazilian singer Maucha Adnet and musicians Marty Ashby and Roger Humphries.

## Skype Workshop

On August 17, 2012, the Center for Latin American Studies (CLAS) hosted the “Workshop on Using Skype to Teach about Latin America.” The purpose of the workshop was to instruct local K-12 teachers on how to use Skype, develop lesson plans, and prepare their classes for a Skype session with partners abroad, other classrooms, and/or native speakers provided through CLAS. The workshop featured a live Skype session to demonstrate its use. The workshop facilitator, **Jason Hank** (Spanish teacher at Beaver Area High School), has been working with CLAS to develop the “Virtual School Visit Program” (VSVP). Through the VSVP, the Center will broaden its current School Visit Program—which involves visits to classrooms by CLAS interns to present lessons—to include Skype sessions that link classrooms with Latin Americans and native Spanish speakers. Eighteen teachers from twelve schools in the Pittsburgh region attended the workshop.



Jason Hank (standing on right) presenting at the Workshop on Using Skype to Teach about Latin America.

## CLAS Bulletin Board

CLAS' anthropological liaison for Ecuador, **Maria Auxiliadora (Mariuxi) Cordero** (CLAS faculty member and alumna), visited the country again this summer to undertake research funded by a CLAS faculty research grant. As usual, while there, she contacted a number of CLAS-related individuals.



At the Centro de Investigaciones Socioculturales (CIS), Universidad San Francisco de Quito (USFQ): Mariuxi (on right) with CLAS alumnus and CIS Director Florencio Delgado (PhD 2002 Anthropology) (left) and current CLAS and Anthropology graduate student Josefina Vasquez (faculty member at USFQ and CIS) (center).



Amaya.

CLAS student **Matt Rhodes** (Graduate Student, Administrative and Policy Studies-Education)—who has taught the Center's undergraduate core course “Latin America and the Caribbean” numerous times and directed the seminar/field trip on two occasions—and his wife Tamar are the happy parents of Amaya Jasmine Rhodes; born on July 6, 2012.



## CLAS Staff



**Deborah Werntz** came blazing, with her *cabello rojo*, into the University Center for International Studies eleven years ago (July 2001) to work as the Financial Administrator for the Center for Latin American Studies and the Asian Studies Center. She proved to be a particularly spirited colleague, who melded quickly into the diverse and fairly peculiar mix of personalities in CLAS. Debee established herself as an administrator who dealt effectively and efficiently with a very broad range of activities on a daily basis. She paid great attention to detail and responded without delay to requests for information. Debee was dedicated to carrying out her work at the highest level of quality and always within the complex and often ponderous guidelines of the University's accounting and research procedures. With Debee on board at the Center, we experienced relatively smooth sailing through the financial waters year after year. Thus, with some degree of complacency having developed over time in relation to financial matters, it should not have come as a surprise that the University would inadvertently find a way to disrupt matters. In spring this year, they offered a voluntary early retirement program for staff—and Debee was eligible. She took the early retirement and left us at the end of June 2012. The cliché about mixed feelings certainly applied—we were very happy for Debee, but sad to have to say goodbye to

a long-term and essential member of our team and, more importantly, to a friend. Suffice it to say that our daily routines are now less exciting and many of our financial procedures less well-executed (the latter, we hope, only temporarily; but it is already too long a time for the Associate Director).

Debee's departure did have an unexpected bright spot for the CLAS staff. **Senthil (Senth) Kathiresan** was hired as a temporary employee to fill in for Debee during a transition period in the University Center for International Studies (UCIS). As per University guidelines, the position Debee left through early retirement was eliminated, so Senth's time with the Center was to be relatively brief. Senth was a wonderful, charming, and thoroughly likeable fellow, with a great sense of humor, as well as a quick study who made Debee's loss somewhat bearable in relation to financial affairs. With the knowledge that Senth was here for only a short time, many people in UCIS tried to help him find a permanent job within the University. These efforts ultimately proved successful and Senth moved into a financial administration job in the Department of Chemical and Petroleum Engineering. Not long after he assumed his position in engineering, staff at CLAS were unable to contact him regarding a planned lunch. It came as a complete shock to all of us when, on Monday, September 24, we learned he had passed away the previous Friday from complications of a heart attack. The disbelief and sadness of all those who knew him in UCIS speaks eloquently of the positive impression he made on them in a relatively very short time. Senth was only 42 years old and an active bicyclist. He was born in Tirupattur, India, and arrived in the US when his father enrolled at Pitt to study engineering. He is survived by his wife Vallikun, daughter Chintha, a brother, a sister, and his parents.





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## CLASicos

**Summer 2012**

**Number 72**

Newsletter of the Center for Latin American Studies  
University Center for International Studies, University of Pittsburgh

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*CLASicos is partially funded by a grant to the University of Pittsburgh's Center for Latin American Studies from the U.S. Department of Education. CLAS is a program within the University Center for International Studies, University of Pittsburgh.*

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